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Page 1 Wednesday, May 24, 1978

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Subj(901) Human Rights, Treaty of Tlatelolco/Nuclear Affairs

**Participants:** Vice Admiral Oscar Antonio Montes, Foreign Minister  
Captain Gualter Oscar Allara, Deputy Foreign Minister  
David D. Newsom, Undersecretary of State for  
Political Affairs  
Ambassador Raul Castro  
Fernando Rondon  
William H. Hallman

**Distribution:** S, D, ARA, S/P, HA, PM, OSD/ISA, JCS, NSC-Pastor

Mr. Newson began by wishing the Foreign Minister a pleasant and successful journey to the United States, pointing out the importance we attach to the Special Session on Disarmament just beginning at the United Nations. (Comment: The Minister left that evening to attend the Session.)

He added that the United States is gratified to learn that the Foreign Minister planned to announce at the Session Argentina's ratification of the Treaty of Tlatelolco -- to which we attach great importance, as we do to all steps toward nuclear control.

Admiral Montes recalled that this had been a basic theme when he talked with Secretary Vance in November. He spoke then of Argentina's interest in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy -- a theme spokesmen for Argentina frequently mention at international forums and in the media.

Argentina, he said, regards ratification of Tlatelolco as important to the kind of technical exchange with the United States in nuclear affairs desired by Argentina.

The Undersecretary replied that the excellent results foreseen by Admiral Montes and Secretary Vance was coming to pass. Now we must -- along with our friends -- encourage Cuba to adhere to the treaty. In this, the adherence of the USSR to the Treaty's Protocol will be helpful.

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONNA M DIPAOLO  
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Mr. Newsom spoke of his earlier, helpful conversation with Undersecretary Allara, and then outlined to the Minister his reasons for coming: to look at the political realities of Argentina and the United States, and to see how progress can be made in matters of mutual interest. My coming, he said, is a token of the importance we attach to good relations with Argentina.

Mr. Newsom went on to speak of problems, in the Congress and among the public in the United States, that have limited our own ability to cooperate with Argentina. He hoped to determine with members of the Argentine government, he said, what can be expected during the process of normalization now undertaken, with the view of recommending to the U.S. government positive steps we in turn can take.

We understand, he said, past difficulties endured by Argentina and efforts made already in the field of human rights. We know too how difficult it is for a government to be responsible for all events during a period of great stress -- but, he added, often some event held back U.S. cooperation when other measures would have warranted it. Mr. Newsom asked for the Minister's views.

Admiral Montes cited close and cordial relations with the U.S. as fundamental to Argentine policy. He had pointed out to Secretary Vance, he said, how maintaining relations of this kind had been costly, in political terms, to the Argentine government. Yet we persevere, the Foreign Minister said. Argentina has, for example, provided lists of detained persons, executed a right of option program, maintained freedom of the press to every extent possible, and sought to institutionalize its reform activities and depersonalize political processes. The government tries its best, he said, against grave and profound facts of Argentine life -- facts which often become distorted in being reported abroad.

The Foreign Minister asked Mr. Newsom to recognize with what gravity the country approached its foreign relations, willing -- as was demonstrated in the case of the Beagle Channel negotiations with Chile -- to go lengths before drawing conclusions. In that vein, he said, he welcomed the Undersecretary's visit. Maintaining dialogue is fundamental to Argentina's decision making process.

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(There followed a brief discussion of the Undersecretary's other appointments, with the Foreign Minister inquiring whether he would see other members of the Junta. Mr. Newsom and Ambassador Castro replied that the visit's purpose was to be in touch with all members of the Argentine government that government thought necessary to achieve the desired ends. Mr. Newsom was at the disposal of those whom the government found useful. This is true also, Ambassador Castro said, of the military officers in Buenos Aires in connection with the Newsom visit.)

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